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United Nations Forum on Forests
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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11. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its twelfth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair and such other officers as may be required (see E/5975/Rev.1). In accordance with Council resolution 2000/35, by which the Forum was established, the Bureau of the Forum shall consist of a Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall also act as Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

At the first meeting of its twelfth session, on 22 April 2016, the Forum elected Mr. Peter Besseau (Canada) as Chair and Ms. Clarissa Souza Della Nina (Brazil), Mr. Wu Zhimin (China) and Mr. Tomas Krejzar (Czechia) as Vice-Chairs of the Forum at its twelfth session. The Forum is expected to elect a Vice-Chair, to be nominated by the African Group, at the second meeting of the twelfth session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda and organization of work for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotation (E/CN.18/2017/1)

3. Implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030

(a) Technical discussion and exchange of experiences on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2017-2018, taking into account the review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development during the biennium and the theme of the International Day of Forests

In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum, the twelfth session will focus on technical discussions and exchange of experiences on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2017-2018, with the engagement of, and exchange of experiences among, States members of the Forum, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders and the science-policy interface. These discussions will take into account the theme and review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development for the period 2017-2018 and the theme of the International Day of Forests in 2018. Under this item, the Forum will provide its contribution to the follow-up, review and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets under consideration by the 2017 high-level political forum. The Forum may also wish to discuss activities in preparation for its contribution to the theme, Sustainable Development Goals and targets under consideration by the 2018 high-level political forum. Emerging issues and challenges of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and sustainable forest management will also be discussed under this agenda item.

(b) Voluntary announcement of voluntary national contributions, where appropriate

In accordance with the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (E/CN.18/SS/2017/2), Member States may, on a voluntary basis, determine their contributions towards achieving the global forest goals and targets of the Strategic Plan (voluntary national contributions), taking into account their national circumstances, policies, priorities, capacities, levels of development and forest conditions. Member States and stakeholders may wish to make a voluntary announcement of their voluntary national contributions during the twelfth session of the Forum under this agenda item. Background information for discussions by Member States on the possible format for voluntary national contributions is provided in the report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, assessment and reporting to be submitted under item 4.

(c) United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the global forest goals and targets

The United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 serves as a reference for the forest-related work of the United Nations system and for fostering enhanced coherence, collaboration and synergies among United Nations bodies and partners towards its vision and mission, as well as a framework to enhance the coherence of

and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components. As outlined in the Strategic Plan, United Nations bodies, organizations and specialized agencies that address issues that are relevant to forests, within the scope of their mandates, were invited to use the Strategic Plan as a reference with a view to building synergies between the global forest goals and targets of the Strategic Plan and their respective policies and programmes, including their contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. United Nations system organizations and partners may wish to inform the Forum on their planned activities to contribute to the implementation of the global forest goals and targets of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 under this agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (E/CN.18/2017/2)

4. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

(a) Cycle and format for voluntary national reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions

(b) Progress on the development of global forest indicators

(c) Further measures to better synchronize data collection and reduce reporting burden

In accordance with General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions (to be added) on the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33, the Forum is to establish a cycle and format for voluntary national reporting by its members, taking into account the cycle of the Global Forest Resources Assessments by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals review cycle at the global level. In addition, in accordance with the provisions of the quadrennial programme of work, States members of the Forum are also expected to discuss the format for communicating their voluntary national contributions to the Forum. In accordance with the Strategic Plan, States members of the Forum may, on a voluntary basis, communicate their progress on the voluntary national contributions as part of their voluntary reporting on the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the United Nations forest instrument. The report of the Secretary-General under this agenda item includes a proposal for a new reporting format and reporting cycle, an update on ongoing work on the development of a set of global forest indicators and possible measures to further streamline and harmonize reporting, reduce reporting burdens and synchronize data collection with relevant members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, criteria and indicators processes and other existing forest data collection mechanisms.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress towards implementing the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions (E/CN.18/2017/3)

5. Means of implementation

(a) Initial discussions on the guidelines for the operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and the availability of resources

(b) Progress on the activities and operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network

The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network of the Forum, which was established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33, works in close cooperation with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to contribute to the implementation of sustainable forest management by mobilizing, catalysing and facilitating access to financial resources. The note by the Secretariat under this agenda item provides a summary of the activities of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network since the adoption of resolution 2015/33 and provides a basis to initiate discussion on the guidelines for the operation of the Network, which are to be considered at the thirteenth session of the Forum in 2018.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2017/4)

6. Enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues

(a) Information on intersessional activities

(i) Information on the workplan of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and actions to strengthen its operations in support of the Strategic Plan and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020

The report of the Secretary-General under this item includes information on the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations in implementing relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 and, in particular, their contributions to the development and implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work.

(ii) Regional and subregional partners

The report of the Secretary-General under this item includes information on the activities of the regional and subregional partners in implementing relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 and, in particular, their contributions to the development and implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work.

(iii) Major groups and other relevant stakeholders

The report of the Secretary-General under this item includes information on the activities of the major groups and other stakeholders in implementing the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 and, in particular, their contributions to the development and implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work.

(iv) Communication and outreach activities

The Forum considers communication and outreach aimed at raising awareness of the vital contribution of all types of forests and trees to life on earth and human well-being to be an essential component of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030. The International Day of Forests, on 21 March, will promote the implementation of the Strategic Plan by providing a global platform for individual and collective public outreach activities by all actors on forests at all levels. The report of the Secretary-General under this item includes information on the relevant activities since the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33.

(b) Revision of the existing guidelines for country-led initiatives and similar initiatives to enhance their contribution to the work of the Forum

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33, the Forum decided to enhance the contributions by country-led and similar initiatives to the work of the Forum by ensuring that they directly support the priorities of the Forum as defined in its quadrennial work programmes, ensuring that their outcomes are considered by the Forum and updating the Forum guidelines. The Forum, at its twelfth session, is expected to update those guidelines.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues (E/CN.18/2017/5)

7. Emerging issues and challenges

In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017-2020, the Forum may decide to include in the agenda of any of its sessions emerging issues and challenges of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and sustainable forest management and that are urgent, unexpected and not already addressed in the agenda of the respective session. For the present session, discussion on emerging issues and challenges of global significance will take place as part of the technical discussion and exchange of experiences under agenda item 3 (c).

8. Forum Trust Fund

Pursuant to the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017-2020, the Forum secretariat is to report at each session on the operation of the Forum Trust Fund.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the Forum Trust Fund (E/CN.18/2017/6)

9. Date and venue for the thirteenth session of the Forum

The Forum shall decide on the date and venue for the thirteenth session.

10. Provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Forum

The Forum shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council for adoption a provisional agenda for the thirteenth session.

11. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its twelfth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Forum shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session. As outlined in the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for 2017-2020, the output of odd-year sessions of the Forum includes a chair's summary report on discussions, including possible proposals, which is transmitted the Forum at its subsequent sessions in the even-year for further consideration and recommendations.